



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Press Release

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Contact: Mike Wintemute  
916-324-9670

### **Cal/EPA Officials Hold Roundtable Discussion on Governor Schwarzenegger's Strategic Growth Plan and Proposed Budget**

Riverside – California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Deputy Secretary Mike Wintemute and Assistant Secretary Cindy Tuck held a roundtable discussion today with local leaders on air quality aspects of the governor's Strategic Growth Plan and budget proposals. The group, which included elected officials, air regulators, and environmental advocates, met at the Riverside County Administrative Center.

"Governor Schwarzenegger's Strategic Growth Plan is a significant step forward in California's fight against air pollution," said Cal/EPA Deputy Secretary Mike Wintemute. "By identifying air quality as a critical infrastructure need, the governor is ensuring that, as California grows, it also has the resources to reduce air pollution associated with goods movement."

The Governor's Strategic Growth Plan includes \$1 billion in bonds to be matched by \$1 billion in funding from other sources to reduce goods movement-related pollution. In addition, the governor's budget proposes more than \$7 million to implement the California Climate Action Initiative, more than \$6 million to improve environmental enforcement efforts, and more than \$8 million to enhance water quality monitoring.

Over the next 20 years, California's population is expected to increase by as much as 30 percent and it is estimated the state faces more than \$500 billion in infrastructure needs over that same period. Governor Schwarzenegger's Strategic Growth Plan is the first phase of a 20-year investment to meet these expected needs for Californians. The plan leverages \$68 billion dollars in bonds over the next 10 years to invest more than \$222 billion in the state's infrastructure without raising taxes.

Since the 1960s, the total number of registered vehicles in California has increased from nine million to 30 million, and vehicle miles traveled in the state have increased from 33.3 billion to 183.7 billion each year. The Department of Transportation expects a 35 percent increase in congestion over the next 10 years. The Governor's Strategic Growth Plan is designed to address these problems by reducing congestion nearly 20 percent over the next decade and building 1200 miles of new highway and HOV lanes in congested areas, and adding 600 miles of mass transit.

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